

THE Anti-Slavery Reporter.

Published Monthly under the sanction of the
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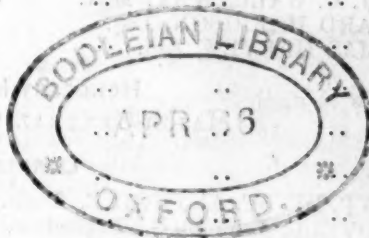
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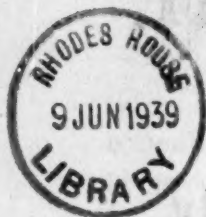


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The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

1883.

ANTI-SLAVERY SUMMARY.

THE year just ended may be said to be one of the most important as regards the Anti-Slavery cause that has been seen since the abolition of Slavery in the Southern States. Although, no doubt, there has been a considerable increase in the Slave-trade itself, both in Central and Eastern Africa, yet we believe that the attention of the civilized world has been more thoroughly aroused to the necessity of putting a stop to this abominable traffic, than has been the case since the great days of our own Emancipation Movement fifty years ago.

The loss by Egypt of her Soudan provinces, and of some of the other great territories conquered by Mehemet Ali, has demonstrated in the most emphatic manner the impossibility of extinguishing the Slave-trade by force of arms. The extinction of Slavery itself, which the Anti-Slavery Society has long maintained to be the only true method of stopping the Slave-trade, is now all but universally recognized, and we believe that the

people of England will not be satisfied until the moral influence of our Government in Egypt is put forth with sufficient energy to accomplish this great end.

For a notice of the history, past and present, of the Slave-trade in Africa we refer our readers to an article written by the Secretary of the Anti-Slavery Society, and reprinted from *The Times*, which obviates the necessity of our saying anything further upon this portion of the subject in the present summary.

The Congo.

Amongst the many objects which have closely occupied the attention of the Anti-Slavery Society during the year just closed, the action taken by them to arouse agitation against the proposed cession of the territory at the mouth of the Congo to Portugal, was fortunately so far successful that the Prime Minister pledged the Government to take no further step in this matter without giving Parliament ample opportunity for its discussion. This matter was fully reported in the *Reporter* during the early part of the year,

and, so far as we are aware, there is no prospect of Portugal being able to obtain that command over the waters of the Congo, which she would probably have gained had it not been for the agitation raised by the Anti-Slavery Society and the Chamber of Commerce. Any attempt to renew this action on the part of Portugal must be strongly opposed.

Brazil.

A scheme for introducing Chinese coolies into Brazil on a very large scale has fortunately been frustrated. The attention of the Anti-Slavery Society was first called to this scheme by an influential English gentleman, resident in Brazil; and soon afterwards the Managing Director of the Steam Company which was about to contract to carry the coolies, Mr. Tong King-Sing, was interviewed by a Deputation from the Society on his journey through London. The facts laid by the Deputation before that gentleman were of such a nature that he resolved at once to enquire into the guarantees provided by the planters in Brazil for the protection of the indentured coolies. It is needless to say that these guarantees were unsatisfactory, and the Secretary of the Society was informed by Mr. Tong King-Sing, on his return from Brazil, that the scheme was abandoned. A close watch will, however, be kept upon the movements of the planters in Brazil, who seem inclined to strain every nerve in order to import a servile Mongolian population. The emancipation of Slaves in Brazil has, we are glad to say, proceeded steadily and

with satisfactory results in some parts of that great empire. Amongst these provinces that of Céara stands out a noble example, which we trust some of the others will not be slow to follow.

International Congress at Milan.

The Anti-Slavery Society, ably represented by Senhor Nabuco, of Brazil, and officially represented by its Secretary, did some useful work at Milan, and created an interest in the cause amongst the Italian and other Deputies. They succeeded in carrying a RESOLUTION calling upon all civilized countries to make the Slave-trade piracy, and it is hoped that this RESOLUTION of an important Congress will not fail to have its effect when the Powers again meet in Conference or Congress in any of the great capitals of Europe.

The Times.

We should not like to close our summary of the year without expressing our sense of the obligation due to *The Times* for the generous manner in which its columns have been thrown open for the insertion of matter supplied by the Anti-Slavery Society during several years past. The press is able to render immense assistance to the cause of human freedom, and *The Times* has nobly led the way by advocating the total abolition of Slavery in Egypt and the Mohammedan East. It has also generously enabled the Anti-Slavery Society to lay bare some of the terrible details of the iniquitous Slave-trade to an audience drawn from the whole civilized world.

SLAVERY AND THE SLAVE-TRADE IN AFRICA.

(REPRINTED FROM *The Times*,

DECEMBER 24, 1883.)

FIFTY years ago England was all ablaze with an Anti-Slavery enthusiasm which resulted, on the 1st of August, 1834, in the carrying out of the first step of emancipation in the British possessions. At the present moment, in view of the great disaster reported from the Soudan, it would be well for the cause of humanity if a similar enthusiasm could be kindled among the nations of the civilized world, in order to compel by the force of an irresistible moral pressure the putting down of Slavery in Egypt and other Oriental countries.

All attempts at stopping the Slave-trade by physical force have hitherto proved, more or less, abortive. As you can never stop the flow of a river by erecting a dam across its bed, so all the great efforts of BAKER, GORDON, GESSI, and others have done little more than turn aside the great stream of human merchandise into less guarded and more out of the way channels—often to the great increase in suffering and mortality. The trade in human beings, like that of all other merchandise, is sure to follow the economic laws of demand and supply. If the demand could be stopped by a general and total abolition of Slavery, the Slave-trade, with its countless horrors, must gradually die of inanition.

I proceed to give a short summary of the history of the Slave-trade in

the Soudan and Central and Eastern Africa, so far as I have been able to obtain any definite and reliable information.

For countless ages the interior of Africa has been ravaged by internecine warfare, always resulting in the enslavement of the conquered tribes; but respecting the extent of these wars nothing can ever be definitely known; and, no doubt, they would continue, to a certain extent, even if not a single Slave should be required for the semi-civilized markets of Egypt, Turkey, Persia, and Arabia. The West African Slave-trade, with regard to which so much discussion and excitement took place some years ago in England, having now entirely ceased by general consensus of the Powers originally interested therein, the attention of Englishmen of the present day has almost totally been withdrawn from the subject, the fact that an enormous trade in Slaves exists in full activity in Central and Eastern Africa being comparatively little realized.

The tribes principally concerned in this export trade are mostly Arabs, or mixed races of Arabs and the original inhabitants of the country. Their principal hunting grounds are the country which is now generally called the Soudan, which extends far into the western interior and descends almost to the Equator. It was, however, unknown by that name in geographical works published a century ago. When these Slave-hunting Arabs first settled in the country south of Egypt—then known under the generic name of Nubia—

is quite uncertain ; but we know that for many centuries large caravans of Slaves have annually traversed those regions, coming from Bornu and Wadai. According to KEITH JOHNSTON, these Slaves were disposed of in Egypt, whence they, no doubt, found their way to Turkey, &c. Coming down to our own day, I believe that the Slave-trade, with its attendant desolating wars, has largely increased within the past few years, and that the principal Slave-hunters are the Baggaras, Dongolowas, and other Arab tribes in the provinces of Kordofan and Darfour.

It is from these tribes that the armies of the Mahdi are said to be recruited, the Slave-traders who had been crushed by BAKER, GORDON, and GESSI Pashas now rising under the guise of religious warfare to fight in defence of their old hereditary trade.

The first public action taken to induce Egypt and Turkey to take steps to put down the iniquities of the Slave traffic was in December, 1837, when the British Consul-General at Cairo, COLONEL CAMPBELL, addressed LORD PALMERSTON, stating that the troops of the Pasha of Egypt in the interior of Africa, Nubia, Dongola, &c., had been employed in collecting Slaves, and received their pay from the proceeds of the sales of those Slaves. DR. BOWRING, who was then engaged in collecting details on the subject, in company with the Consul-General, waited upon MEHEMET ALI to remonstrate against this state of things. The description of the interview, given by DR. BOWRING to the ANTI-SLAVERY CONVENTION in 1840, occupies several pages of the

report of the proceedings, and describes in eloquent language the reception of himself and colleague by the venerable conqueror of the Soudan, who, "with his splendidly decorated pipe, dazzling with multitudinous diamonds," sat waiting to receive them. "Fire flashed from the old man's eyes," as they spoke. "He grasped his sword and showed symptoms of strong excitement." However, on calming down, he promised to forward a dispatch that very evening, prohibiting his troops from capturing negroes. That the steps taken by MEHEMET ALI were thought not to be entirely ineffectual is seen from a resolution passed by the Convention on June 17, 1840, the very words of which might be applicable to the condition of things at the present day :—

"That the present moment, when the European Powers are exercising so great an influence on the affairs of the Ottoman Empire, is peculiarly favourable to the intervention for the suppression of Slavery in the regions of the East ; and that a memorial be presented to Lord Viscount Palmerston, entreating his lordship's assistance in obtaining such declarations from the Sultan as are likely to lead to the entire suppression of Slavery in the countries subjected to the Sultan's government. That this meeting has learnt with deep interest, the measures adopted by the Viceroy of Egypt for the suppression of the abominable Slave-hunts by his Highness's troops, and especially the declaration of his wish to aid in bringing about the extinction of Slavery."

A vote of thanks was further passed to the Viceroy on the same occasion, DR. MADDEN, who, in company with the now revered patriarch, Sir MOSES MONTEFIORE, had several interviews with MEHEMET ALI, presented the address from the Anti-Slavery

Convention on August 4, 1840. This address, which was signed by the venerable THOMAS CLARKSON, was received by his Highness, "not only graciously, but with apparent feelings of the greatest satisfaction and the deepest interest in the object of its prayer." In his reply, however, he stated:—"It is a difficult question with us, a very difficult one to settle here. It is a question of law, and as such it must be decided on by the heads of religion in Constantinople," and, with rather an ironical smile, "If you would succeed, you must go to Constantinople."

In spite of the orders given by MEHEMET ALI that his soldiers should cease from their annual expeditions to capture Slaves in the mountains of Nubia, this disgraceful practice still continued, DR. MADDEN estimating their number at something like 40,000 per annum, exclusive of the thousands captured by the Baggaras, who are still the chief offenders. However good the intentions of MEHEMET ALI himself might have been, his successors did not carry out the views expressed by the founder of their dynasty.

No very detailed accounts of the southern provinces of Egypt were published until the mystery of the Nile had been unravelled by the extraordinary journey of SPEKE and GRANT, and SIR SAMUEL BAKER's first visit to those countries in 1862. DR. SCHWEINFURTH commenced, in 1863, those journeys in Egypt and Nubia which served to fit him for his second great expedition into Central Africa, lasting from 1868 till 1871. That journey, so well described in his

"Heart of Africa," placed him in contact with the Slave-trading bands which perpetually roam over the continent. "Thinking over this subject," which has ever since possessed a painful interest to him, he says:—

"Throughout my wanderings I was ever puzzling out schemes for setting bounds to this inhuman traffic. The traveller in these lands is kept in one perpetual state of irritation by what he sees: on every road he meets long troops of Slaves; on the seas and round the coast he comes in contact with Arab boats crammed full of the same miserable creatures."

The horror experienced by this indefatigable and scientific explorer was shared by all other European travellers in these blood-stained districts. SIR SAMUEL BAKER, describing his celebrated expedition in 1869, undertaken at the express command of the Khedive, and with the warm approval of the Prince of Wales, thus writes on the first page of his eventful history:—

"This enterprise is the practical result of my original explorations, in which I had been an eye-witness to the horrors of the Slave-trade, which I determined, if possible, to suppress."

That the activity of the Slave-dealers had largely increased since Khartoum had become the firmly-established depôt for Arab settlers, is shown by the painful contrast which SIR SAMUEL BAKER draws between the state of the country far to the south during his first visit, and that which he saw in 1872. He says:—

"It is impossible to describe the change that has taken place since I last visited this country. It was a perfect garden, thickly populated, and producing all that man could desire. . . . The scene has changed. All is wilderness. The population has fled. Not a village is to be seen. This is the

certain result of the settlement of Khartoum traders. They kidnap the women and children for Slaves, and plunder and destroy wherever they set their foot."

As is well known, Colonel (now General) GORDON succeeded SIR SAMUEL BAKER when the latter resigned the commission he had received from the Khedive. It would far exceed the limits of this article to give even a slight sketch of the work effected by COLONEL GORDON in the years 1874-79. They are pretty fully detailed in DR. HILL's work, entitled "Colonel Gordon in Central Africa." The story of his conflicts with the Slave-dealers and of the destruction of some of their strongest encampments reads more like a romance than a history. Many of the most atrocious Slave hunters were slain, their armies dispersed, and, to all appearance, the traffic had received a death-blow. How fallacious this appearance was, COLONEL GORDON himself was the first to perceive. "I return," says he, "with the sad conviction that no good could be done in those parts, and that it would have been better had no expedition ever been sent." These words, which were applied by COLONEL GORDON more particularly to the southernmost regions of Egypt, on the borders of the Albert Nyanza, are now more applicable to the provinces of Darfour, Kordofan, and the Bahr Gazelle, which at that time had been cleared by GESSI PASHA, GORDON's able lieutenant. In a despatch, written by GESSI a few days before his death, he thus reviews his work:—

"At the end of the war there were only burnt villages, abandoned or in ruins. The natives had taken refuge in the jungle or in

inaccessible forests. There remained not a single ox, a goat, or a fowl, at any price. I had the villages rebuilt. I constructed divans, storehouses, and a school, to which sheikhs now send their children for primary education, and which is frequented by over 100 children belonging to the troops and the Hotteria. I have facilitated communications by means of bridges or ferries over the rivers. I have restored to their families over 40,000 Slaves who had been torn from them and from cultivating the soil to be sold and taken to Shaka. I have destroyed all the Slave-trading establishments, and have created agricultural colonies with the Slaves."

That the fair picture drawn by GESSI of the condition of the provinces cleared by him of the terrible Slave-hunters, at the cost of so much suffering had also a reverse side, he himself was made painfully aware of when he had escaped from that long imprisonment in the *Sudd* of the Nile, which soon afterwards caused his death. On his way to Khartoum, coming suddenly and unexpectedly upon the town of Fashoda, he found the place filled with Slaves, which had been captured from the tribes of the Nuehrs, whose country had been laid waste in a *razzia* made by regular and irregular Egyptian troops, and whose number he estimated at 10,000, beside many cattle. The stream had only been diverted, it appears impossible to stay its course. A few words may here be said respecting the expeditions sent by the late Khedive, ISMAIL PASHA, into the Soudan. Undoubtedly, the firman issued to SIR SAMUEL BAKER contained the clause "To suppress the Slave-trade; to introduce a system of regular commerce." There were, however, other causes which made Ismail anxious to increase his strength in the Soudan. A wide-

spread insurrection had taken place among the chief Slave-dealers who "had already in their plans divided the provinces of the Soudan among themselves, and had given out that they would plant their standards on the walls of Cairo." Moreover "their strength was doubled by the support which they had so largely received from the tribes that many hundreds of years earlier had passed over from Arabia and had settled in Africa. These Arabs were men of long descent, proud of their descent, and fond of war."

Chief among the Slave-dealers was ZEBEHR RAHAMA, of whose princely court and formidable power DR. SCHWEINFURTH gives a vivid description from a visit paid to him in 1871. He possessed a line of 30 fortified posts reaching far into the heart of Africa, by means of which he had not only become the head of all the Slave-dealers, but was the real and sole chief of their country. The Khedive, powerless to control this formidable vassal, had sent his troops to join him in an expedition against the Sultan of Darfour. Unfortunately for himself, ZEBEHR went down to Cairo to assert his claim to be made Governor of that province, carrying with him, it is said, £100,000 to be used as bribes. He was detained in Cairo, and put upon the pension list with £100 a month, which he is still receiving from the Egyptian Government. A message from ZEBEHR forwarded to his son and the officers who had sworn fidelity to him under the great tree at Shaka, as described by COLONEL GORDON, produced a speedy revolt among the Slave-dealers. It was

this revolt which was crushed by GESSI PASHA, who shot SULEIMAN, ZEBEHR's son. He also slew all his officers except one, who escaped, and is now supposed by some to be the MAHDI! Many theories have been started as to the identity of the False Prophet, but none of them bear investigation. Only a short time ago an elaborate article was published to prove that the MAHDI was the Slave-dealer SULEIMAN, once so notorious in the Soudan; but as this man was shot by GESSI PASHA in 1879 this supposition falls to the ground. The late appointment of SULEIMAN's father, ZEBEHR PASHA, to an important command in the Soudan has been the subject of much comment both in Egypt and in England. A formal protest, addressed by the ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY to EARL GRANVILLE, was published in the columns of *The Times* on the 10th of December, and the Society has, since then, received strong remonstrances from European residents in Egypt specially qualified to form an opinion. DR. SCHWEINFURTH, who knew ZEBEHR personally during the height of his power at the head of the Soudan Slave-dealers, writes from Cairo, on the 10th of December, in the following terms:—

"More doubtful even than the result of the perilous expedition of Baker Pasha is another scheme, which throws its dark shadow over us all and over our efforts for the suppression of the Slave-trade—I mean this appointment of Zebehr Pasha and the enrolment of negroes, which he is making night and day. He is said to have some thousands of these already; but what a set! Former Slaves driven away by their masters for bad conduct; people without character, thieves from the streets; a mob of the very worst kind, who are of less value even than Egyptian soldiers; and with

this mob he is going to fight! How dangerous for the country to allow a man like Zebehr such unlimited power? Do they think that he will forget that the Government has slain his three sons? Once in his own country, he will place himself on the side of the Mahdi and will pay his army with Slaves!!"

With regard to abolition in Egypt, the question has been frequently asked—"What will you do with the Slaves when they are set free? The men will be able to take care of themselves, but how will you procure employment for the women? And if this be not done, how will you prevent them from going on to the streets?" There is much force in this argument, but I am glad to say that the subject has not escaped the attention of those who are now in a position to make themselves heard by the Egyptian Government. It is believed by many persons of practical experience that the formation of a "HOME" in CAIRO for freed women Slaves, under the management of European and American ladies and gentlemen, is an absolute necessity. In such a "Home" these women would be temporarily taken care of until suitable situations could be found, or till they could be respectably married, and as the scheme has been strongly supported by MR. CLIFFORD LLOYD, who is at present the English adviser in the Egyptian Home Office, I feel sure it is one well worthy the earnest consideration of all persons interested in the cause of freedom. In fact, without some such machinery as this it would be cruel to take inexperienced negro Slave women from the shelter of the harem, and expose them uncared for to all the dangers and temptations of an Oriental city.

Space will not allow me to do more than glance at the various features of the Slave-trade in Eastern Africa. The Red Sea route affords an easy outlet for thousands of Slaves, whom it might be difficult to send into Egypt. Hidden in creeks on the African coast, swift-sailing dhows cross rapidly to ports in Arabia, carrying small lots of captives, who are easily passed off as servants or passengers. The notorious ABOU-BEKR, assisted by his large family of Slave-dealing sons, is the chief offender in this nefarious traffic: and to the disgrace of the Egyptian Government he is still continued as Governor in Zeilah, on the Gulf of Aden, in spite of his strong denunciation by GENERAL GORDON. Abyssinia and Shoa, which are nominally Christian countries, are supposed to have put down the Slave-trade within their borders, though there seems to be little lack of Abyssinian girls for the Egyptian harems, where they fetch a large price. Considerable light has been thrown upon this intricate question by a recent letter addressed by the eminent French traveller M. SOLEILLET, to the Société de Géographie Commerciale de Paris, under the date Ankober (Kingdom of Shoa), 10th of May, 1883. After admitting that ABOU-BEKR had received his appointment as Governor of Zeilah through the influence of France, M. SOLEILLET continues:—

Ever since his appointment the Governor of Zeilah has been master of the route to Shoa. King Menelek had forbidden the Slave-trade, and was a firm abolitionist, but, being unable to get past the Abou-Bekrs, he was obliged to close his eyes to this criminal trade. . . . Like all Mussulman merchants (and that is what gives them a power of action which you cannot

comprehend in Europe); the Abou-Bekrs have houses, native wives, and children wherever they go; thus they find themselves at home everywhere, from Kaffa to Zeilah and Zeilah to Bailloul. At the time at which I am writing, they have two routes by which they return from Shoa—one of which debouches upon Zeilah, which only serves them for the transport of lawful goods, such as ivory, coffee, hides, &c.; the other, which debouches on Ambaba (the private property of this family) near Tajurrah, is the place where they bring their caravans of Slaves and make them rest to recover from the hardships of the journey. These caravans are composed of children of both sexes, destined for the harems of Egypt and Turkey. It is there that they fatten the girls and emasculate the boys. When the girls are well fattened and rested, they (and such of the boys as have survived their cruel treatment) are brought by roads along the sea coast between Reitta and Bailloul, and there, on dark nights, are embarked on vessels which take them to Hodeidah, Jedda, or Mecca, whence, by means of corresponding agents, they are forwarded to Constantinople. These Slaves receive a good welcome there, for they are soon transformed into gentlemen; and then—the Gallas girls are so beautiful! so white! the eunuchs so strong! so fine!"

The southernmost, or equatorial, province alone stands out in glowing colours from this dark picture. This country, ruled over by an Austrian, DR. EMIN BEY, who was appointed by Colonel Gordon, is admittedly free from the curse of the Slave-trade. So peaceful is it that MR. FELKIN, who has lately traversed the whole route from Lake Victoria Nyanza to Cairo, says that "were it not for the wild beasts, you might walk through the territory governed by DR. EMIN BEY armed only with a walking stick." The same thing can scarcely be said of the adjoining country of Uganda, where KING M'TESA is still alleged to be living, although reported dead some months ago. The REV. MR. WILSON long resident at his Court,

informs us that a considerable Slave-trade is carried on in his dominions. Further south, the countries west of Tanganyika send their annual quota of 10,000 Slaves across that lake. At least, so says MR. HUTLEY, who lived there for five years. This army of Slaves is absorbed by the native tribes to the east, for we have it on the authority of SIR JOHN KIRK that none of them reach Zanzibar. A debt of gratitude is due to SIR JOHN KIRK, by whose tact and energy the Sultan has been induced to give his countenance to the putting down of the traffic in human beings. Slavery itself, however, still exists in the clove island of Pemba, and in the other territories belonging to Zanzibar. On the sugar plantations of the COMORO Islands thousands of Slaves are employed, largely by Europeans and Americans. The Sultan of these islands has lately concluded a treaty with England abolishing the Slave-trade, but we fear it is a dead letter. That the trade is yearly increasing in the NYASSA country and in the districts bordering Portuguese territory is certain, from the evidence sent to our Society repeatedly by the REV. C. MAPLES of the Universities Mission, and from other sources. Much of this increase is due to the stimulus given by the demands of France, who, under the name of *engagés libres*, is busy recruiting black labour for the plantations of her settlements in the Indian Ocean. Between this system and Slavery the difference is but nominal, nor can there be much doubt that the cause of her recent activity in Madagascar is a desire to possess stations whence these Mozambiques may be despatched to Réunion

and other French Islands. PORTUGAL forbids the Slave-trade in her dominions, but either she is unable or unwilling to carry out her orders in her remote colonies, for there can be no doubt of the existence of this trade in Portuguese African waters. Hence, we see the importance of not allowing Portugal to have control over the countries watered by the CONGO. It is scarcely necessary to allude to the TRANSVAAL, as in that country the actual Slave-trade has, I believe, been discontinued. That Slavery exists in form, if not in name, is tolerably certain, but I trust the condition of the natives will soon be ameliorated. The effete little empire of MOROCCO is deeply tainted with the crime of Slave-dealing, as has appeared evident from many communications sent to our Society during the past few months. Many of the victims sold publicly in the streets have been dragged all the way from the Guinea Coast, and must have gone through much suffering. LORD GRANVILLE has lately drawn the attention of the British Minister to this disgraceful state of things in a tolerably sharp despatch.

In the foregoing hasty but painful review of the "Dark Continent," I have refrained from recalling any of the heartrending details which have been so often and so fully described by various correspondents. Dr. LIVINGSTONE stated that he could trace the path of the Slave caravans by the whitened bones of those who had sunk down to die under the fatigues of the cruel march, and this fact has been abundantly confirmed by GORDON, FELKIN, WILSON and many others. GENERAL GORDON says: "One of the

Shaka men, who is riding with me, tells me hundreds and hundreds die on the road, and that when they are too weak to go the pedlars shoot them."

DR. NACHTIGAL once told the Society that when travelling in Central Africa, near Lake Tchad, he was obliged to attach himself to an Arab Slave gang, and that the drivers deliberately cut the throats of those who could not march. He said "they appeared to think nothing of it." How many are the victims of this accursed trade? None can tell, but we have the estimate of Livingstone that half a million of human lives are sacrificed every year in Africa to this all-devouring MOLOCH. Other travellers say that this is probably no exaggeration, and the question naturally arises, can this plague be stayed? At the present moment things look gloomy enough, and for a season the Slave-hunters will have it all their own way. The ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY deeply regrets the blow lately given to the advance of civilisation, but it does not despair, for it feels assured that the cause of human freedom must eventually triumph. To agitate for the complete and total abolition of Slavery throughout the Mahomedan East, will continue to be the work of a Society which—often with small help or sympathy from the general public—has always striven to hasten the advent of that day when it may be said that "No man buyeth their merchandise any more: the merchandise of . . . Slaves, and souls of men."—Rev. xviii. 11-13.

CHARLES H. ALLEN,

Secretary, Anti-Slavery Society,
55, New Broad-street, London.

1884.

ANTI-SLAVERY WORK IN PROSPECT.

It is specially difficult at the present moment to give a forecast of the work most likely to occupy the attention and call forth the energies of the Anti-Slavery Society during the year just commencing. Egypt and Africa must, of course, hold the first place in the thoughts of Abolitionists, as they now do in the deliberations of Statesmen. One thing certainly becomes increasingly clear, and that is that every effort must be made to procure the abolition of the legal status of Slavery in Egypt. When and how this measure is to be effected must be left to the decision of the English and Egyptian Governments, and to the development of events. The plan we have long advocated has been the one formerly pursued in India, viz.:—the non-recognition of Slavery as an institution in all Courts of Law and Justice. By this simple means, on the lowest estimate formed by Sir Bartle Frere, not less than *nine millions* of Slaves became free in virtue of that Act, and this without any derangement of the social condition of the people, *or the payment of any compensation to Slave-owners*. The opinion held by the Society respecting abolition is, we are glad to say, also that of the Foreign Office, Lord Granville having stated in a despatch to Earl Dufferin, in the early part of last year, that the only way to extirpate the Slave trade and to restore peace and prosperity to the districts wasted

and depopulated by its attendant horrors, was to *abolish Slavery for ever throughout the Egyptian dominions*.

The first business of the Anti-Slavery Society this year is to endeavour to carry out the plan proposed by Mr. Clifford Lloyd, Colonel Moncrieff, Dr. Schweinfurth, Judge Sheldon Amos, and others, in Egypt, for providing a

Home for Freed Women Slaves.

The temporary protection and support of these helpless women until suitable employment can be found for them is a matter of the first importance, and must precede abolition. The movement has been strenuously supported in England by the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., and Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., who are actively exerting themselves to assist in raising the necessary funds. The Anti-Slavery Society has undertaken to provide the requisite office accommodation and clerical labour *free of all charge*, excepting expenses out of pocket for printing, advertising, &c. As this scheme has already been described in Mr. Forster's letter, printed on another page, it need not be repeated in this summary.

Anti-Slavery Jubilee.

On the 1st of August, 1834, England performed the first great public act in the emancipation of her Slaves. Although complete emancipation did not take place until some three or four years after this date, it has been thought that the present year would be a suitable time to hold one or more Jubilee Meet-

ings to celebrate this glorious episode in the history of our country. The first of these Meetings will be held probably at a not very distant date in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House, by the kind consent of Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, M.P., who has promised to preside. In addition to the interest which such meetings are sure to awaken it is intended to inaugurate the raising of a Jubilee Fund, to enable the Anti-Slavery Society to carry on its future work for some years to come, without the painful necessity of making periodical appeals to its friends for special donations. We trust that this appeal will find an echo in those English Colonies which have been freed from the curse of Slavery; and we think that it might take practical form if all ministers of religion in the West Indies, Mauritius, and the Cape Colonies would make collections in their churches and chapels, on Sunday, the 27th of July next, on behalf of the Anti-Slavery Society's Jubilee Fund.

The Anti-Slavery Reporter.

This little Journal may, without any egoism, be said to be the only paper in which the present history of Slavery and the Slave-trade is condensed into a form suitable for ordinary readers. If it were more widely read, there would be less ignorance upon those topics amongst the educated classes in England. The small subscription of Two Shillings and sixpence annually can hardly be supposed to deter many persons from ordering it. We rather suspect that its very existence is known but to a

limited few. In order, therefore, to produce an interest in the important questions connected with Slavery and the Slave-trade, now occupying the attention of our own and some foreign Governments, we shall be glad if any of our subscribers will kindly give us the names of persons to whom we can forward specimen copies of this present *January* number, *gratis*.

For this purpose we are having a large additional number printed, and shall be glad to dispose of them in the manner above stated.

Morocco.

The flagrant and shameful spectacles witnessed every few days in the streets of Tangier where small "parcels" of human merchandise, including many children of tender age, are publicly sold by auction, induced the Anti-Slavery Society to call the earnest attention of Her Majesty's Government to this scandalous proceeding, with the happy result that Lord Granville forwarded a very sharp note to Her Majesty's Minister in Morocco, enjoining him to call upon the Emperor to put a stop to this abominable traffic. At this moment, however, these sales continue as frequent as ever, as may be seen from the report which we publish each month. Sir John Hay will have to go on protesting, but his protests will be more likely to be listened to if he insists upon all persons who enjoy the protection of the British Flag refraining from the buying and selling of Slaves or employing Slave labour.

Home for Freed Women Slaves in Cairo.

(See Advertisement.)

LETTER FROM THE
RT. HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—I have read with painful interest Mr. ALLEN's able article on African Slavery and the Slave-trade in your paper of this morning.

Two facts already acknowledged by all who have studied the question are made unmistakably clear. It cannot be doubted that the Slave-trade for the supply of the Oriental markets is as destructive of human life and as productive of human misery as was the American traffic. True, harem and household Slavery, demoralizing though it be, may not be so cruel as prædial Slavery, though it must not be forgotten that large numbers of Slaves are annually used up on plantations in Arabia and elsewhere; but this much is certain—that the horrors of the middle passage are equalled by those of the desert journey, and the victims are captured by the same fiendish Slave-hunt.

And it is also clear that by far the most efficient, and, indeed, the only certain means of stopping the Slave-trade is the abolition of Slavery.

I have long been so convinced of this truth that I have never been sanguine that the supply from the Soudan could be stopped while the demand continues, though while COLONEL GORDON was at work it was not easy to limit the power of his heroism and genius and character. Nor would I for a moment counsel the re-conquest of the Soudan for the purpose of preventing the Slave-trade,

and, above all, not by an army composed of pariahs and outlaws, as described by DR. SCHWEINFURTH, or of fellahs dragged up in chains and led by ZEBEHR PASHA, himself the Prince of Slave-traders.

There is, however, one hopeful passage in Mr. ALLEN's article to which I most earnestly beg the attention of your readers.

The abolition of Slavery in Egypt would be a great blow to the Soudan Slave-trade. Its continuance while we are the virtual rulers of Egypt is a disgrace to England and an encouragement of Slavery.

One chief source of the demand for Egyptian Slaves is the supply of women to the harems. When these women and girls are released, some employment must be found for them, or their freedom will doom them to a worse fate than Slavery. The HOME FOR FREED WOMEN, therefore, mentioned by MR. ALLEN, becomes a most practical scheme, and not the less because strongly recommended by MR. CLIFFORD LLOYD, in whose judgment and energy, as well as benevolence, I have the strongest faith.

I may add that he has himself informed me that without some such provision as this home would afford, he dare not press the Egyptian Government, as he otherwise gladly would, to enforce their present emancipation laws.

I am well aware that we are beset by subscriptions for all parts of the world, but no very large sum will, I think, be needed, and I confidently appeal to those who, like myself, think the abolition of the Slave-trade and Slavery one of their chief duties

in life, to send a subscription to Mr. C. H. ALLEN, Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, who will, I understand, put himself in communication with the committee formed at Cairo under the supervision of Mr. CLIFFORD LLOYD.

I shall myself be glad to subscribe £50 for two years.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. E. FORSTER.

*Burley-in-Wharfedale,
Leeds, December 24, 1883.*

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY
OF THE
ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF *The Times*.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me space for a few words respecting the scheme for providing a home for freed women Slaves in Cairo, advocated by The RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER in his letter in *The Times* of the 25th inst. ? Mr. FORSTER promises a subscription of £50 for two years, and calls upon those who feel an interest in the cause to forward their remittances to me. This has already been responded to by Sir T. FOWELL BUXTON to the extent of £100 per annum for two years.

I shall, therefore, be glad to give notice through *The Times* that I am prepared to receive donations and subscriptions for the above-named object, and to hand them to the committee now forming in Cairo under the auspices of Mr. CLIFFORD LLOYD, of which Mr. and Mrs. SHELDON AMOS are prominent members, and, I believe, COLONEL SCOTT-MONCRIEFF, R.E., is treasurer.

Cheques should be crossed DIMSDALE FOWLER, and Co., and marked "Home for Freed Women Slaves."

It will be understood that in this matter I am acting only as the representative of the Cairo Committee, and that the sums received will not in any way be available for the usual work of the Anti-Slavery Society, which, unfortunately, now grows more and more urgent every day.

Money received for the Cairo fund will be acknowledged in advertisement columns of *The Times*.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHAS. H. ALLEN,
Secretary.

Dec. 27, 1883.

*British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,
55, New Broad Street, London, E.C.*

SLAVERY IN EGYPT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

SIR,—In August, 1877, a decree was signed in Alexandria by Ismail, Khedive of Egypt, and Sherif Pasha, the first article of which enacts that :—"The sale of negro Slaves or Abyssinians from family to family shall be and shall remain prohibited in Egypt in an absolute manner upon all the territory comprised between Alexandria and Assouan. This prohibition shall take effect in seven years from the time of the signature of the said Convention, of which the present ordinance shall form an integral part. The same prohibition will extend to the Soudan and the other Egyptian provinces, but only in 12 years from the date of the above-cited signature."

Thus, in August of the present year—exactly 50 years after the first public step taken by Great Britain for the emancipation of the Slaves in her own colonies—the sale of Slaves in Egypt proper will become illegal according to the terms of the Convention made by the late Khedive with England.

Seeing that His Highness Tewfik Pasha is strongly in favour of abolition, it ought not to be very difficult for his present Ministry—of

which the enlightened Nubar Pasha is the head, and Mr. Clifford Lloyd and Colonel Moncrieff are important members—to see that the above-named decree is properly carried out. They should also announce that at no distant date this will be followed by an Act decreeing the total abolition of Slavery in Egypt.

As to the best means for obtaining abolition, I think that the following quotation from a letter lately written to me by Sir Samuel Baker contains very valuable suggestions:—

“Nothing will ever suppress the Slave-hunting of the White Nile regions unless England should assume the supreme command in Egypt. Then—

“(1) Emancipate all Slaves after 12 months’ notice.

“(2) Introduce a Vagrant Act to compel them to labour, otherwise they will become vagabonds.

“(3.) Organise institutions for freed women Slaves, from which they might be hired as servants.

“(4.) Let a proclamation be issued declaring Slave-hunting or the conveyance of a cargo of Slaves to be piracy.”

With every word of the above this Society heartily agrees, and I think that the twelve months’ notice recommended by Sir Samuel Baker (before the publication of General Gordon’s views on the subject) may fairly be said to meet that distinguished officer’s idea of giving compensation to the owners.

With regard to the institutions for female Slaves recommended by Sir Samuel Baker, I have the pleasure to inform you that this first practical step in the abolition of Slavery in Egypt has now taken definite form. In response to the strong appeal made by Mr. Clifford Lloyd and others some months ago, a Committee has been formed in England, of which the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., Sir T. Fowell Buxton, and the Chairman of our Society, Mr. Edmund Sturge, are members. This body will act in concert with the Committee now forming in Cairo under the auspices of Mr. Clifford Lloyd, Colonel Scott-Moncrieff, R. E., Judge Sheldon Amos, Dr. Schweinfurth, and others, to undertake the raising of the necessary funds for the formation of a home for freed women Slaves in Cairo. Several gentlemen and ladies interested in the cause have promised sums of £100, £50, and £25 per annum for two years.

A list of these will shortly be advertised, and the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society has undertaken to provide the requisite office accommodation and clerical labour gratis. The carrying out to a successful issue of this scheme is declared by Mr. Clifford Lloyd in emphatic terms to be an absolute necessity before he can recommend the Egyptian Government to set in motion any of the existing machinery for giving freedom to women Slaves.

I shall be glad to give further information and to receive donations and subscriptions, or they may be paid direct to Messrs. Dimsdale, Fowler and Co., Cornhill, to the credit of the “Home for Freed Women Slaves.”

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

CHARLES H. ALLEN, Secretary.

British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,
55, New Broad Street, London, E.C.,
January 11.

TURKEY AND THE SOUDAN.

AT the present extraordinary crisis in the affairs of Egypt we wish to say as little as possible about giving up the Soudan to barbarism and Slave-trading. It is a military question with which we have no right to intermeddle, but there can be no two opinions about the iniquity of allowing Turkey to set up in that vast country her empire of misrule and oppression.

The following from an editorial of the *Daily News* of 8th inst. expresses our views entirely, and will carry more weight than anything that we can say.

“ . . . If there were any probability of the Turkish Government actually attempting the reconquest of the Soudan, then we must say that we do not know of any conditions or limitations which could render such a step acceptable to the English people, or in accordance with the interests of civilization. It is highly undesirable that Turkey should be encouraged to reassert her authority over any surface of the earth’s globe from which that authority had been for any reason withdrawn. This we take to be a very good axiom to start with in all considerations which affect the

future of Turkey and generally of the East. But it has a particular and an especial application to Egypt and the Soudan. The restoration of the authority of Turkey over the Soudan would assuredly mean the revival of the Slave-trade. It is idle to think that a Slave-trade could be put down under the government of the greatest Slave-holding Power in the world. A worse state of things than that which prevailed in the Soudan when Chinese Gordon went out with authority there would soon begin to make itself manifest under the encouraging influences of Ottoman rule. One of the incidents of Gordon's undertaking was that he had in the beginning 'to disband six thousand Bashi-Bazouks who were used,' says his biographer, 'as frontier guards, but who winked at Slave-holding, and robbed the tribes on their own account.' If this was so while the authority of the Khedive was still supposed to prevail, how much worse would the condition of things be when the authority, such as it may be, had gone back to the Sultan? Over the Khedive or any Khedive remonstrance of ours would have some effect, and our Government could, indeed, under existing conditions, change remonstrance into command at any time. But what control could we pretend to have over the Sultan? No punishment of Slave-dealers and rescue of slaves will put down a Slave-trade in such regions while there are markets anywhere open to the traders, and within the traders' reach. Can any one believe that, with the authority of the Porte restored to the Soudan, there would not always be markets enough available for the Slave-dealer.

The Slave-market is not easily abolished, even under better auspices than those of a Turkish Government. There was difficulty enough in abolishing it under the Khedive. The town of Assouan, on the edge of Nubia and the frontier of Egypt proper, may almost be called a civilized place. It is the gate of the Soudan in that direction. It lies close to the First Cataract, and is familiar to all Nile tourists. Yet within two years or less from the present time there was a sort of Slave-market in Assouan. We do not mean to say that anybody might walk into the bazaar and bargain for slaves there; or that any public Slave-market existed; or that the ordinary European wandering among the narrow mud-built streets would come upon a

mart and an auction-block, and vendors offering Slaves for sale as in Richmond or Charleston before the American civil war, or in Constantinople a generation ago. But any one who was put on the right track for such a purpose could, we believe, unquestionably buy Slaves in Assouan, just as he could buy whisky in the State of Maine. The system, however, had got into so much of disadvantage that it could only be dealt in after a subterranean fashion, and it was in a fair way of being extinguished altogether. The Khedive and his advisers were believed to be sincerely set against it. But the restoration of the Sultan's authority even in the most nominal form would unquestionably mean a fresh impulse given to the Slave-trade in the Soudan, and all up to the Egyptian frontier.

There would be Slave-markets enough before long, not exactly at Assouan, but within easy reach of Assouan. We leave our readers to think whether it would be a light task under such circumstances to keep Egypt proper free from the operations of the trade. One might as well believe that it would have been easy for a Greek Government to put down brigandage in a province which reached to the Turkish frontier and had Turkish territory as a convenient refuge for robber fugitives. We are not arguing in this way out of mere sentiment, although a little sentiment may well be excused where the Slave-trade is concerned, but every practical man, no matter how utterly unsentimental, must know by this time that the English people will not tolerate the Slave-trade in any country for the state of which they are in any sense responsible. They would not endure the idea of a revived Slave-trade, subterranean or otherwise, in Egypt. They would insist on its being put down. But the restoration of Turkish authority over the Soudan would mean the revival of the Slave-trade in all its worst old forms there; and such a revival in the Soudan would mean new irruptions of the trade into Egypt. We should therefore only be preparing fresh troubles for ourselves, troubles absolutely unavoidable by us, if once the Turkish Government were enabled to reassert their authority over any of the regions bordering on Egypt where that authority had been for a time extinguished. . . . "

THE ABORTIVE ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE CHINESE COOLIES INTO BRAZIL.

IN an official notice of the 14th instant the shareholders of the *Companhia Comercio e Immigracao Chinesa* are invited to meet at the assembly room of the Banco Predial on the 29th for the purpose of winding up its affairs. This step, it is explained, is due to the failure of the negotiation with the China Merchants Co. for the introduction of Chinese into this country. The announcement has been received by the public—who are not expected to pay the fiddler—with undisguised satisfaction. There has been a considerable party, it is true, who have been seeking the introduction of Chinese labour into Brazil, but for the most part they are planters and speculators who have placed their private interests above the general welfare of the country. The miscarriage of this attempt may not dishearten them altogether, but it will certainly defer the fatal step until a time when wiser counsels may prevail, and the planters will see that Chinese labour is very far from being a necessity. We have been informed that steps were sometime since taken by various planters for the acquirement of Chinese labourers, and it is possible that a few will yet be introduced through purely private enterprise.—*Rio News*, 24th Nov.

THE EVERLASTING KOURBATCH.

ONE who has read Mackenzie Wallace's new book on *Egypt and the Egyptian Question* sends us the following concise review of how it strikes him!

A SOLE IDEA.

"In Egypt the sole idea of an official is to apply the bastinado, or kourbatch to the sole of the unfortunate fellah, in order to obtain such taxes as the official may choose to consider he ought to pay. Thus the poor fellah is the sole sufferer in Egypt, and although it may seem a solecism, it is said to be the sole way of reaching his understanding!"

SLAVE-TRADE IN MOROCCO.

As usual the Tangier paper, *Al Moghreb al Aksa*, contains notices of Slaves sold in the public streets of Tangier and other towns of Morocco. We make a few extracts:—

9th Dec.—Small black girl, of six years of age, 47 dollars. When this poor little creature was taken to the house of her new master she

wept bitterly, crying for her mother. Many persons who witnessed this sad sight shed tears also. The same day was sold another girl, 14 years old, 45 dollars.

On the 3rd of December a Mulatto woman, 30 years old, of delicate figure, was sold at Tetuan for 30 dollars. As soon as she arrived at the house of her new master she showed symptoms of madness, and the sale was consequently annulled. Her former master being alarmed at the madness of his Slave, lost no time in setting her free. The remarkable feature of the case was that as soon as the mulatto was set free, and found herself mistress of her own actions, she experienced such an access of joy, that she immediately recovered the possession of her faculties. Oh! how great is the love of freedom.

One Hadj Hamed Lamarti, in the service of the British Legation, and consequently under English protection, was seized with the praiseworthy idea of setting free one of his Slaves. We commend this action of the worthy Hadj, and hope that he will not long delay setting free the rest of his Slaves. . . . We think it evident that the Governments of the countries represented in Morocco, will not long tolerate that individuals who enjoy their protection and have the same rights as their subjects, should buy, sell, and hold Slaves under the shadow and protection of civilised nations. It is, in fact, an equivalent to sanctioning Slavery.

Sunday, Dec. 16th.—A negress, about 30 years old, with a baby a few months old, was sold for 43 dollars.

Another negress. 46 dollars.

Dec. 30th.—Last week were sold in Tangier one negress, 25 years of age, 31 dollars.

Another, 19 years old, 36 dollars, and last Sunday a Mulatto, 31 years old, 38 dollars.

A negress, 24 years old, 41 dollars.

This makes 120 Slaves sold in the streets of Tangier, since the 1st of April.

EQUATORIAL AFRICA.

TELEGRAMS arriving as we go to press bring news that the Slave-hunters are rising in those southern regions hitherto kept in something like good order by the European officers appointed by General Gordon. We learn that Lupton Bey, an Englishman, Governor of the Bahr Gazelle, is besieged at Fort Rek. It will be remembered that the Bahr Gazelle was the province which Gessi Pasha cleared of the Slave-dealers, and established what appeared to be the commencement of a time of peace and prosperity. *The Times* reports that M. J. M. Shuver, or Schouwer, has been killed. This adventurous Dutch explorer started from Cairo on the 1st of January, 1881, with the intention of walking across Africa to Cape Town. We have two or three times had to chronicle reports of his journey being stopped by disturbances in the Soudan, and we shall be truly sorry if the present rumour of his death is confirmed. We shall also be very anxious to hear how Dr. Emin Bey fares in these troublous times, and whether he is able to preserve the equatorial regions under his rule from participation in the general insurrection.

ABYSSINIA AND THE RED SEA COAST.

THE following extract of a letter from the Special Correspondent at Souakim of the *Daily News* confirms what was stated in Mr. Allen's article in *The Times* as to the increase of the Slave-trade in the Red Sea; it also shows that the conduct

of the Egyptian officials is tending to throw Abyssinia and Shoa into the arms of France and Italy.

"Suakim, January 10.

"At Massowah I was present at an inquiry into a case of robbery. A large company of pilgrims and merchants from Abyssinia, on reaching Egyptian territory, were plundered of valuable property, and some of them killed. Others arrived at Massowah naked. Muktar Bey, the local Governor, refused to attempt to capture the brigands. Such instances are frequent. Plundered goods are publicly sold in the Massowah Bazaar with the cognizance of the Egyptian officials. Rasaloula, the Abyssinian General, complains of the inattention of Muktar Bey. In his complaints he alleges that the Abyssinian traders were forced to abandon the Massowah route for the longer road to the Italian and French settlements at Obok and Assab. He therefore begs English intervention for the sake of preserving the Massowah road.

"Evidence shows that the French are trying to get a second port with a route to the interior, and that the Italians are pressing the King to divert the trade route to Assab. Count Antonelli and other Italian Envoys lately presented valuable presents to the King, and offered to supply arms and construct, at Italian expense, wells along the proposed track. A similar proposal was made to a powerful tribe in South Abyssinia. Complaints of bribery and corruption among the Egyptian officials are general in the coast districts. It is notorious that these officials are the chief sharers in the Slave trade, which is as brisk as ever."

We are glad to note that Baker Pasha has dismissed Muktar Bey, the Governor of Massowah, and has appointed Mr. Mason, an American well-known in the Soudan. We should be glad if Baker Pasha would carry out a similar measure with regard to Abou Bekr the Governor of Zeilah.

GENERAL C. G. GORDON, R.E., C.B., started for the Congo, *via* Belgium, on the 16th inst.—We wish him God-speed.

HOME FOR FREED WOMEN SLAVES IN CAIRO.

LONDON COMMITTEE.

THE RIGHT HON. W. E. FORSTER, M.P.,
80, Eccleston Square, S.W.

SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON, BART.,
Warlees, Waltham.

EDMUND STURGE, Esq. (*Chairman Anti-Slavery Society*).

TREASURER—JOSEPH ALLEN, Esq., 18,
Cornhill, London.

HON. SEC.—CHARLES H. ALLEN, 55,
New Broad Street, London.

Remittances may be sent to either of the above; or to Messrs. DIMSDALE FOWLER AND CO., Bankers, 50, Cornhill, London, E.C., to credit of *Home for Freed Women Slaves*.

A COMMITTEE IN CAIRO

IS FORMING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

Mr. CLIFFORD LLOYD,

HIS HONOUR JUDGE SHELDON
AMOS,

DR. SCHWEINFURTH,

Mrs. SHELDON AMOS,
&c., &c.

COLONEL SCOTT - MONCRIEFF, R.E.
Treasurer in Cairo.

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